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1. ASSOCIATION DES ETATS GENERAUX DES ETUDIANTS DE L'EUROPE (AEGEE) (Special Consultative Status granted in 1998)

1. Introductory statement recalling the aims and purposes of the Organization

The *Association des Etats Généraux des Etudiants de l'Europe* (AEGEE) was established in 1985 as a forum for young Europeans. AEGEE promotes a unified Europe without prejudices, strives towards an open and tolerant society and fosters democracy, human rights, international cooperation and a European dimension in education. It is AEGEE's mission to inform and educate the young people of Europe about European values, its diverse cultures and its heritage, to find realistic solutions to social and political problems, to build and strengthen democracy and civil society as well as a culture of peace and cooperation, to extend the range of educational opportunities available to young people throughout Europe and to encourage and facilitate youth mobility, activism and integration. AEGEE's fields of action are: cultural exchange, active citizenship, higher education and peace and stability. AEGEE is one of the largest European interdisciplinary student associations uniting approximately 15.000 students in 240 local organizations, operating in 41 countries all over Europe. AEGEE is a secular, politically independent, non-profit organization.

2. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Throughout the quadrennium 2002-2005, the organization maintained relations to ECOSOC and other United Nations bodies and agencies as UNESCO and the World Bank. Representatives of AEGEE have also actively participated in the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva, Switzerland (10-12 December 2003).

Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC)

AEGEE has not been present at ECOSOC meetings during the period 2002-2005. However, a representative of AEGEE participated in the "10-Year Review of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)" held in New York, 3-7 October 2005, organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs' Youth at the United Nations Division of Social Development. The representative helped to prepare the interactive and informal roundtable discussion "Young people: Making Commitments Matter," participated actively in side events organized by other youth NGOs, observed the meetings of the Third Committee, the plenary meetings of the General Assembly and informed the organization about the outcome of the conference.

UNESCO

Since its successful participation in the "World Conference on Higher Education in the Twenty-first Century: Vision and Action" held in Paris, France, 5-9 October 1998, AEGEE is actively involved in consulting UNESCO concerning higher education. Between 2002 and 2005, AEGEE representatives participated in several follow-up conferences and meetings such as the "First Global Forum on International Quality Assurance, Accreditation and the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education" in Paris, 17-18 October 2002, the "8th UNESCO/NGO Collective Consultation on Higher Education" in Paris, 13-15 January 2003 or the "Meeting of Higher Education Partners – World Conference on Higher Education +5" in Paris, 23-25 June 2003. On 1 December 2004, AEGEE representatives met with the UNESCO Youth Unit for informal consultations. In 2005, AEGEE participated in the "9th

UNESCO/NGO Collective Consultation on Higher Education" in Paris, 6-8 April; a representative was present in several workshops and contributed to the statement of student organizations. AEGEE was also present at the 4th UNESCO Youth Forum in Paris, 30 September - 2 October 2005 on "Young People and the Dialogue among Civilizations, Cultures and Peoples - Ideas for Action in Education, the Sciences, Culture and Communication." The representative participated in several workshops and provided input for the final outcome document of the conference. AEGEE also participated in the International Conference of NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO "Knowledge for All 'To Ensure Sustainable Development'," 14-16 December 2005, Paris; the representative was part of the group of NGOs preparing the establishment of the Youth Joint Programmatic Commissions (JPC Youth).

World Bank

In October 2003, the World Bank launched the European Essay Competition "Imagine" which invited young people from all over Europe to develop concrete and innovative proposals on the role of Europeans in fighting poverty and in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The competition was organized in partnership with AEGEE and other organizations. As a partner, AEGEE advertised and promoted the 2003-2004 competition's theme "Radically Reducing World Poverty: What Role for Europeans?" and encouraged its members and students all over Europe to participate. AEGEE was also a partner in the 2004-2005 competition "Building a Secure Future, Seeking Practical Solutions." Besides promoting the competition, representatives of AEGEE were part of the Steering Committee, regulating the format and content of the competition, as well as the Selection Committee (Jury), evaluating and pre-selecting the submitted essays.

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

AEGEE participated actively in the first phase of WSIS, especially its preparatory process. Representatives of AEGEE were present at PrepCom-1 in Geneva, Switzerland, 1-5 July 2002 and PrepCom-2 in Geneva, 17-28 February. The Secretary General of AEGEE submitted a paper on e-learning (WSIS/PC-3/C/0057) during the Intersessional Meeting between PrepCom-2 and PrepCom-3 in Paris, France, 15-18 July 2003. Representatives of AEGEE were also present at PrepCom-3 in Geneva, participated as observers at WSIS in Geneva, 10-12 December 2003, and informed the organization about its results. In November 2003, AEGEE also organized seven European seminars related to WSIS in cooperation with its partner TakingITGlobal.

3. Other relevant activities in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the United Nations

Each year, AEGEE organizes a large variety of international events and projects – within the framework of its main fields of action – in order to promote international cooperation and understanding. Those events are not directly linked to the United Nations but reflect the spirit of its charter.

Odessa National University Model United Nations (ONUMUN)

Since 2003, AEGEE-Odessa, the local branch of AEGEE in Odessa, Ukraine, organizes ONUMUN in cooperation with the Odessa National University. Model United Nations (MUN) simulate the work of the United Nations, its bodies and agencies, and enable

students to experience the principles and purposes of the United Nations charter as well as international diplomacy and negotiation. MUNs also foster international cooperation and understanding among students. AEGEE-Odessa helped to organize three MUNs so far: on 29-30 November 2003, 26-28 November 2004 and 25-27 November 2005. About 100 students from all over Europe participate each year.

International Projects

Within the framework of the main fields of action, AEGEE organizes several international projects each year. The "Youth and Globalisation" project organized in 2003, 2004 and 2005, explored the role of youth in fostering civil society and encouraged international youth cooperation. Within this project AEGEE organized the "World Youth Summit on Youth and Globalization," 10-12 December 2003 in Brussels, Belgium which brought together 200 young people and NGO representatives from all over the globe to discuss the economic, political and cultural effects of globalisation on youth. "EuroIslam," a project organized in 2004 and 2005, aimed to foster intercultural dialogue between all religions and religious communities, especially Muslims and Christians in Europe. "The Bridge: Connecting Mobility and Disability," organized in 2004 and 2005, addressed the mobility and integration of young people with disabilities in the work of NGOs in order to enable their participation in the development of civil society. "Tolerance – Acceptance – Peace," organized in 2005, consisted of a series of seminars and events on conflict and conflict resolution such as "Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping – Concepts, Strategies and Initiatives for a Peaceful Europe" 8-12 December 2005 in Fribourg, Switzerland, or the "Conflict Resolution Training Course" organized 14-18 December 2005 in Skopje, Macedonia.

2. BRAHMA KUMARIS WORLD SPIRITUAL UNIVERSITY

(General Consultative Status granted in 1998)

Introductory Statement

The aims of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU) include:

Offering to people of all walks of life a simple, and accessible education in spiritual and moral understanding, principles and values to build human capacity; to reaffirm the spiritual identity, inherent goodness, worth and dignity of the human being and bring about a positive change of awareness, attitude and behaviour as the foundation for the overall advancement and betterment of the human condition; to foster long-term human-centred development, offering a spiritual perspective of contemporary issues of personal, community and world concern and facilitating a greater awareness of corresponding rights and responsibilities.

The BKWSU is a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO). The University's collaboration with other organizations include: Co-chair and member of Coordinating Council of the Values Caucus in New York. Member of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Values and Ethics Caucus, a working group set up during the preparatory meetings. Member of the Bureau of the NGO Committee on the Freedom of Religion and Belief and chaired a briefing on behalf of the Committee on "the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on UN and Civil Society Relations." Participates in the Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns and the Committee on Human Rights, and co-convenes the "Jumping the Fence task force" of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. Cooperates with other organizations in the preparation of joint statements on UN-related issues.

The BKWSU's geographical membership has increased since 2002, in 18 more countries, giving it a presence in a total of 101 countries, territories and islands. During this quadrennial period the "Serve Africa" initiative has made a concerted effort to focus on that region. The BKWSU's source of funding remained substantially unchanged during the quadrennial period.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council, its conferences and other UN meetings

2002

Commission on Human Rights, 58th Session, Geneva, 18 March- 26 April 2002

Commission on the Status of Women 46th Session, New York, 4-15 March 2002

UN Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, Spain, 8-12 April 2002

Written Statement: *"Ageing, Dignity and Spirituality"*, Oral Statement: *"Dignity and Ageing"*

UN Special Session on Children, UN Headquarters, New York, 8-10 May 2002

UN World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August- 4 September 2002. Written Statement: *"Spirituality – The Heart of Sustainable Development"*; Booklet on *"Renewable Energy Projects"*.

2003

Commission on Human Rights 59th Session, Geneva, 17 March- 25 April 2003

Commission on the Status of Women 47th Session, New York, 3-14 March 2003

56th Annual NGO/DPI Conference, UN Headquarters, New York, 8-10 September 2003; Written Statement: *"Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the UN Promise"*

World Summit on the Information Society, First Phase, Geneva, 10-12 December 2003; Written Statement: *"An Inclusive Information Society: Wisdom, Vision and Values"*

2004

57th Annual NGO/DPI Conference, UN Headquarters, New York, USA, 8-10 September 2004;

Written Statement: *"Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action"*

Commission on Human Rights, 60th Session, Geneva, 15 March- 23 April 2004

2005

Review and Appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly, UN Headquarters, New York, USA, 28 February- 11 March, 2005

Commission on Human Rights, 61st Session, Geneva, 14 March- 22 April 2005; Written Statement: *"Human rights = Inner rights"*

Informal Hearings of the GA with NGOs, Civil Society and the private sector, New York, 23-24 June 2005

58th Annual NGO/DPI Conference, UN Headquarters, 7-9 September 2005; Written Statement: *"Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnership, and Renewal"*

World Summit on the Information Society, Second Phase, Tunis, Tunisia, 16-18 November 2005; Written Statement: *"Informed Individuals; Spiritual Societies"*

Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies

Decent Work Agenda, International Labour Organization (ILO): meeting co-sponsored by the ILO and the World Council of Churches, Geneva, February 2002. Written and oral statements made. Statement published by ILO in *"Philosophical and Spiritual Perspectives on Decent Work"*. **Roundtable on "Spiritual and Philosophical Perspectives of Decent Work"**, Geneva, December 2005, organized by the International Institute for Labour Studies. Oral statement: *"The Strength and Sustenance of Decent Work."*

UN 60, in cooperation with DPI and UN Staff Recreation Council: The BKWSU, the Values Caucus and the Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns, co-sponsored *"The Spirit of the United Nations: Markings for the Future"* to honour the UN 60 and the 100th Anniversary of Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, UN Headquarters, October 2005.

Pan-African Youth Leadership Summit, jointly organized by UNDP, Government of Senegal and Global Peace Initiative of Women: *"Providing a Global Platform for Africa's Next Generation of Leaders in Achieving the Millennium Development Goals"*. Oral statement made at the Interfaith Service of the opening plenary, and paper presented at a panel discussion.

Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, UNESCO: BKWSU continues its support through conferences, dialogues, seminars and workshops on peace, conflict prevention and non-violence. In Australia, a series of forums on *"Dialogue among Civilizations"* were initiated. In Uruguay, a research paper was prepared in consultation with and published by UNESCO on the topic of: *"Values Underlying the Uruguayan Culture."*

UN International Day of Peace: Through its network of centres worldwide, the BKWSU works with local communities and involves various sectors of society to focus on world peace on 21st September. Activities are done in collaboration with UN Information Centres, UNESCO, UNDP, UNICEF and civil society organizations. **UN World Environment Day**: The Scientists and Engineers' Professional Wing of the BKWSU engages the local officials and environmentalists in dialogue on issues of the state of the earth. **International Year of Mountains 2002**: In Moscow more than 200 sport veterans, including the first Soviet Mount Everest climbers, dialogued on *"My Peak, My Olympus"* highlighting values that help achieve great results and overcome challenges. A photo exhibit was held at UNIC in Moscow.

Other relevant activities: In Support of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Goal 1. Achieve Universal Primary Education: The Living Values Education Programme supported by the BKWSU focuses on primary and secondary levels. It is currently being implemented in more than 8,000 sites in nearly 80 countries. Other programmes include

Activities for Refugees and Children Affected by War, Street Children and Drug Rehabilitation.

Goal 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women: International Women's Day is used to encourage the role of women through public forums, residential retreats, seminars and dialogues on processes of capacity-building, inner empowerment, gender equality and respect.

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases: In India, the Global Hospital and Research Centre, managed by the BKWSU, works in partnership with the World Health Organization in the STOP TB Campaign. The Hospital's Village Outreach Programme works to reduce child mortality and to improve maternal health by providing nutritional supplements, health checkups and the immunization of village children. An associate of the BKWSU, The Janki Foundation for Global Health Care's initiative *Values in Healthcare: A Spiritual Approach*, offers personal and team development programme for healthcare practitioners.

Goal 7. Ensuring Environmental Sustainability: The BKWSU has spearheaded the installation and use of solar energy within rural communities. The research and development programme of the Department of Renewable Energy in operation at its headquarters covers: Hybrid alternative energy systems, Passive solar architecture, Photovoltaic power packs, Solar hot water plants, and steam cooking systems, and Water recycling technologies.

Goal 8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development: The annual Call-of-the-Time Dialogue Series provides the space for policy makers to have conversations filled with insights, ideas and fresh perspectives so that the seeds of true partnerships are developed.

Emergency Relief: (1) Tsunami Relief Activities: The BKWSU helped to identify the immediate needs of Tsunami victims in Sri Lanka. Basic requirements and medical supplies were transported to the camps while care was also taken to help build mental stamina in over 30,000 affected families in Colombo, Kandy and Batticaloa.

3. INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (IRFD)

(Special Category Consultative Status granted in 1998)

Aims and Purposes of the Organization, Membership, Funding, and Affiliations

The International Research Foundation for Development, Inc. is an autonomous, nonpartisan, transnational organization composed of an international community of contemplative thinkers, policy makers, practitioners, and laypersons who are making a concerted effort to improve the quality of life at various levels of the world.

The purposes of the International Research Foundation for Development, Inc. are: 1. to establish and maintain an integrated global network for scientific policy research and advocacy on contemporary development issues; 2. to create a global community of cooperation and partnership for human concerns of sustainable development: socioeconomic, politico-cultural, educational and scientific; 3. to generate and disseminate original and transcendental thought: cross-cultural, cross-nationalistic, cross-regional, and cross-disciplinary; 4. to strengthen civil society intervention in global policy making; 5. to create a viable partnership at all levels for global peace and sustainable development for the new millennium; 6. to launch development projects at community levels.

The foundation has collaborative affiliations with international NGOs in consultative status such as International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR); International Institute for Sustainable Development; Commonwealth Human Ecology; World University Services; Greenpeace International; and World Federalist Movement. Furthermore, IRFD has been working collaboratively with many international research institutions, universities, regional organizations, think tanks and advisory groups.

The foundation's sources of funding are: contributions from regional networks, membership fees and conference registration fees, donor agencies, contributions from individuals. The foundation's membership has increased significantly.

Conferences & NGO Briefings, and Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its Subsidiary bodies

The foundation has organized four international conferences: 1. Economy, Environment and Society - August 27-28, 2002 at Birchwood Executive Hotel & Conference Center in Johannesburg, South Africa; 2. Geneva 2003 Conference, International Air Transport Association (IATA) Conference Center - Geneva, Switzerland - December 8-9, 2003, and Palexpo, Geneva, Switzerland - December 10, 2003; 3. Mauritius Conference 2005, University Mauritius - Mauritius - January 10-11, 2005, and Freeport Exhibition Center, Port Louis, Mauritius - January 10, 2005; 4. Tunis 2005 Conference, Renaissance Tunis Hotel - Tunis, Tunisia - November 14-15, 2005, and Kram Center, Tunis, Tunisia - November 16, 2005. These four conferences and events were parallel to the United Nations World Summits and Special Sessions of the General Assembly, and UN International Meetings: World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD); World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Phase I & II; and UN International Meeting on Small Island Developing States. These conferences have been used as a window for policy advocacy, furthering research and global education focusing on the implementation gaps on development arenas in view of contributing to the work of the United Nations.

Organizing Side Events, Participation in NGO Briefings

The foundation has organized the following Parallel events and presented papers for NGO forums/briefings: 1. Information Society and Development Paradox in Asia - January 11, 2003, United Nations University, Tokyo; 2. Information Revolution, Digital Divide and Development Paradox - February 20, 2003 at the International Labor Organization (ILO), Room 11, Geneva, Switzerland; 3. Policy Reflections: Digital Divide, Global Development and the Information Society - December 10, 2003 at the Palexpo Exhibition Center-Room P, Geneva, Switzerland; 4. The Role of Cities in an Information Age: ICT Application for Urban Development - At the UN Habitat World Urban Forum Networking Event - September 16, 2004, Barcelona, Spain; 5. Small Island Developing States: Challenges, Prospects and International Cooperation for Sustainable Development - January 10, 2005 at the Freeport Exhibition Center, Port Louis, Mauritius; 6. Digital Divide, Global Development and the Information Society - November 16, 2005 at the International Trade Center of Kram, Room Kasserine, Tunis, Tunisia.

Written Documents: Information Revolution, Digital Divide and Development Paradox: A Global Framework for ICT Policy Formulation (Documents: WSIS/PC-3/CONTR/162-E 15 September 2003 & WSIS/PC-2/CONTR/100-E 17 February 2003); The Role of Cities in an

Information Age: ICT Application for Urban Development (submitted for the World Urban Forum (WUF) II: Report of the IRFD Networking Event)

Foundation's Representation to the UN Meetings

The Foundation's representatives attended the following meetings:

World Summit on the Information Society - Asian Regional Conference, Tokyo, 13-15 January 2003; The second & third session of the Preparatory Committee for WSIS-Phase I (PrepCom-2), 17-28 February 2003; (PrepCom-3), 15-26 September 2003; Geneva (Switzerland), UN World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD 2002) Johannesburg, South Africa; UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS-Phase I 2003) Geneva, Switzerland; WSIS-Phase II 2005) Tunis Tunisia; Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 47th Session, New York (USA), 3-14 March 2003; 48th Session, New York (USA), 1-12 March 2004; 49th Session, New York (USA), 28 February-11 March 2005; 50th Session, New York (USA), 27 February-10 March 2005; and the 59th and 60th sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (March-April 2003 and March-April 2004 respectively in Geneva, Switzerland).

Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies

The foundation operates very cooperatively within the ECOSOC system receiving advice and guidance when required. In addition to this general framework of cooperation, several UN officials from the following United Nations bodies and agencies have collaborated and contributed to our parallel events. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD). Prominent figures and officials from UN Bodies were: Ms. Freudenschuss-Reichl, the Special Representative and Assistant Director-General for UN Affairs, UNIDO; the Director of the Industrial Energy Efficiency Branch, UNIDO, Vienna Office (August 27, 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa); the Director, Information and Communication Technology for Development, Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme (December 8, 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland); a member of the UNECE Task force, the Coordinator of the UNEP Infoterra Network, the Environmental Information Management Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (November 14, 2005 in Tunis, Tunisia). In addition to the above UN bodies' involvement in our foundation's activities, IRFD was invited to make a presentation at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) High Level Dialogue within the purview of the UN World Summit on Information Society (December 9, 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland); Lake Toba Summit 2005 on Global Partnership on Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Post Disaster Settlement organized by the Network of Regional Government for Sustainable Development in collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), UN-Habitat, and UNEP (March 10-12, 2005, North Sumatra, Indonesia).

Humanitarian Efforts and Initiatives Aimed at UN Millennium Goals

1. IRFD has undertaken Tsunami Reconstruction Project in Sri Lanka.
2. IRFD has designed a project on ICT application with the intention of contributing to MDG

4. MARYKNOLL SISTERS OF ST. DOMINIC, INC.

(Special Consultative Status granted 1998)

Introduction: Aims and purposes of the organization

The purpose of the Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic (hereafter referred to as the *Maryknoll Sisters*) is to participate in the mission presence and activity of the Catholic Church and was established as a response to the needs for a global mission. To accomplish this, the Maryknoll Sisters reach out to peoples of other lands, bridging the barriers of differing cultures, races and religions in order to: to learn and understand; to promote a more just and humane society; to offer solidarity, hope and love to a world broken and divided by hatred, conflict and violence.

Membership and work

Since the 2002 Quadrennial Report, the Maryknoll Sisters continue to live and work with the people of twenty-six countries located in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, South and North America. Membership from these areas now include women from Taiwan, Province of China, the Republic of Korea, Philippines, Myanmar, Vietnam, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and several countries of Central and South America.

There has been a conscious effort in each locality to assist in fulfilling the UN MDG's. In order to do this, Maryknoll Sisters as a UN NGO has worked closely with the Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers' NGO; with Maryknoll Lay Missioners and Affiliate Volunteers; with civil society and local NGO's in every Region. Their activities consist of: work with poor, with migrant women in the world's largest urban areas. Because projects which support local agriculture and economics are very important, members have cooperated with local communities in small development projects and education programs.

In Africa, they cooperated in work of HIV/AIDS relief; with women, in youth formation and education, and in agriculture and ecological projects. Peace and reconciliation has become a vital need for effort.

In Asia, together with local groups they served migrants, especially those requiring resettlement, those persons in need of education, those suffering from HIV/AIDS; and also, in the restoration of educational institutions.

In Latin America, among other works, they closely cooperated with local efforts in agriculture, education, health (HIV/AIDS) and self-help and poverty-relief programs, and with youth training programs.

In North America there has been increasing efforts to aid the urgent needs of immigrant peoples.

In all Regions, local efforts are often not enough, so in tandem, our members have connected with other NGO's and look to the United Nations for solutions.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

As an NGO with Special Consultative Status, the Maryknoll Sisters closely followed the ECOSOC yearly agendas, and made substantial efforts to respond. The Maryknoll Sisters are members of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) and Non-

Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS). They have participated in the following *Committee Working Groups*: Disarmament, Sustainable Development, Ecumenical, Social Development, Racism, and Indigenous; & *Caucus*: Women, HIV/AIDS and Earth Values.

In particular the NGO has sent representatives, often from southern regions to participate in the following UN conferences, meetings and programs and have co-sponsored Side Events at these Conferences:

1 – Maryknoll Sisters are concerned with the seemingly universal causes of poverty and the social effect it has on the people of their regions. Joining a faithful nucleus of NGO's and civil society our NGO attended:

Commission on Social Development:

2003 – 41st Session, February 11-21 at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

2004 - 42nd Session, February 4-13 at United Nations Headquarters, New York

2006 - 44th Session, February 8-17 at UN Headquarters, New York

2- Because members have experienced the destruction of environment and local ways of life, they are involved in and have tried to speak out through Side Events at:

Commission on Sustainable Development:

2002- Second Summit Preparatory Committee (PREPCOM 2): 28 January-8 February 2002 New York [Presented a Side Event: Sustainable Indigenous Agricultural Practices]

2002- March 25-April 5 PREPCOM 3: UN Headquarters, New York

2003-CSD 11 + April 28-May 9: Side event – UN Headquarters, New York: [Maryknoll Aids Task Force: Sustainable Development & HIV/AIDS]

2004-CSD 12 + April 14-30: UN Headquarters, New York [With Earth Values Caucus presented a day long event: Water as a Global Common]

2005 CSD 13: April 11-22, UN Headquarters, New York: [With Earth Values Caucus- Documentary of Water-Caucus Meeting Presentation 18/4/05]

3- In cooperation with the Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers and with Womens' Environmental & Development Organization (WEDO) – United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) -UN NGO's & Caucus, our members, world wide, have actively participated during Commission with Side Events or sending Representatives:

Commission on the Status of Women:

2003: 47th Session March 3-14, 2003: UN Headquarters, New York, USA [Side Event: March 12 Maryknoll Aids Force- Film Screening]

2004: 48th Session March 1-12, 2004: UN Headquarters, New York, USA [Sponsored a Young Man from El Salvador]

2005: 49th Session February 28-March 11, 2005: UN Headquarters, New York USA: [Sponsored two Women from Brazil-Panel on Effects of Racism on Women: March 2]

2006: 50th Session February 27-March 10, 2006: UN Headquarters, New York, USA

4- . *In solidarity with Indigenous Peoples and in recognition of Indigenous Rights, the following Forums were attended together with Indigenous from Mexico, Bolivia & Peru...*

Permanent Forum on Indigenous-(UNFPPII):

2003, 2nd Session, 11-23 May 2003: United Nations Headquarters, New York

2004: 3rd Session, May 10-21, 2004: UN Headquarters, New York, USA:[With UNICEF-Working Group Maryknoll Sisters sponsored 2 Indigenous Women & 1Child who gave a statement on the Needs and Rights of Indigenous Girls]

2005: 4th Session, May 16-27, 2005: UN Headquarters, New York

2006: 5th Session, May 15-26, 2006: UN Headquarters, New York

Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies With IANSA [*International Network on Small Arms*] participated in NGO activities with particular interest in illicit small arms & Street Gangs.]

1 (a) - UN Department for Disarmament Affairs: (DDA) *Because of Maryknoll Sisters involvement with youth education & international conferences regarding gangs & child soldiers they sent representatives to Conferences on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW):*

2003: UN Headquarters, New York: Action to Prevent Combat/Eradicate Illicit Trade in SALW

2004: June 14-25, UN Headquarters, New York: **Open Ended Working Group** Session on Tracing Illicit: [Statement on *Arming Street Gangs-El Salvador Case* under auspices of *International Network on Small Arms*]

2005: July 11-15, Second Biennial Meeting: Prevent Trade...Small Arms and Light Weapons: UN Headquarters, New York

1 (b) - *Because of members' experience in Japan, the Pacific Islands and disarmament programs they have followed:*

2002: April 8-19, UN Headquarters, New York: PrepCom for Review conference on Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

2005: May 2-27 Review Conference on the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons at UN, New York: Cooperated with the Mayors for Peace Delegation

2- Members now realize the source of poverty in our world is either caused or exacerbated by financial institutions, even within the UN system. They have, therefore, endeavored to engage this phenomenon through participation in the following UN Sessions:

2002: International Conference on Financing for Development-Monterey Mexico (Participated in Roundtables)

2003: UN **High Level GA Dialogue on Financing for Development** and Related Public Hearings (FFD) October 28-30, at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA

2004: April 26, at the United Nation Headquarters, New York: ECOSOC/ Bretton Wood Institutions (BWI) and World Trade Organization (WTO) High level Roundtables (FFD)

2005: May 18-19, UN Headquarters, New York: 2nd UN High Level GA Dialogue on Financing for Development FFD Multi-Stakeholder Consultations on Systemic Issues [with Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility]

3- *Because members have experienced the destruction of environment and local ways of life, they are involved in and have tried to speak out through United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP):*

2004: Global Civil Society Forum (UNEP) in Jeju, the Republic of Korea (attended as North American Delegate) Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF), 27- 28th March 2004 Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF) , 29 - 31 March 2004 Jeju, the Republic of Korea

2004: 11-13 October 2004 Global Women's Assembly on Environment (UNEP) UN Office in Nairobi, Kenya, (attended as Africa Delegate).

4- *With great concern regarding both the actuating the MDG's and the serious changes within the UN system proposed as reform participated as far as possible in:*

2005: 23-24 June: Informal High Level Hearings of the General Assembly (GA) with Non-Governmental & Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector. ...Sponsored a woman from Guatemala as Spokesperson.

5- In 2004, a member worked with UNICEF (*United Nations Children's Fund*) itself; she assisted in writing the section on the Role of Religions for the booklet UNICEF was preparing on the trafficking of children.

Written Statements were submitted from 2002 to 2005 to some of the above Conferences in cooperation with other NGO's. These urged States to use the mechanisms at their disposal to prevent trafficking of women; to eliminate illiteracy, and promote education, especially among girl children. Still other statements were made in Geneva at the High Commission on Human Rights on behalf of Children's Rights in the Context of War, and urging a Total Ban on the Death Penalty. Unfortunately, no dates are available.

Other *Statements outside the UN*, but focusing United Nations issues include: Support or the International Criminal Court; Towards a Peaceful End to War and Terrorism; A Call for Abolition the Abolition of Torture; Reflection Paper on Genetically Modified Organisms; Water and the Community of Life

Other relevant activities

September 21, 2003- International Day of Peace: Maryknoll Sisters hosted a Prayer for Peace at their Headquarters that included world-wide Religious Traditions.

Maryknoll Sisters Africa Region had Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN Habitat, as keynote speaker in 2005 Meeting.

Maryknoll publications

Maryknoll Magazine: Items on the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies are often highlighted in articles, or in the Section called: ***World Watch***. During the past four years, alerts were published on Disarmament, Control of Arms, Trade, HIV/AIDS, Climate Change. One Subject covered in depth was the presentation by youth at the UN Forum on Indigenous Issues.

NewsNotes: Almost every issue of NewsNotes presents news items about the United Nations, as an attempt to help readers become aware of news but also learn about the UN through un-biased reporting.

Maryknoll Magazine - circulation of 400,000; *Revista Maryknoll*, - the Spanish Edition with circulation of 60,000; *NewsNotes*, Office of Global Concern, (bi-monthly newsletter) circulation of 2000; *Voices of Our World* - the Maryknoll radio program heard on 100 radio stations; Maryknoll Videos: *Coming to Say Goodbye* - HIV/AIDS in Africa; Maryknoll Web Sites: www.maryknoll.org / www.maryknollogc.org

5. SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME

(Special Consultative Status granted 1998)

Part I: Aims and Purposes of the Organization

The School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND), an international faith-based organization, works in a variety of formal and non-formal education programs to ensure that all people enjoy the right to develop their potential and the opportunity to use their gifts for the common good. As educators with a world vision, the School Sisters of Notre Dame are especially sensitive to the needs of women, children, and those who live in impoverished conditions, as they strive to create a global community where human dignity is respected, the environment is treasured, spirituality is nourished, and justice is practiced. The approximately 4,000 members working in thirty-five countries and two territories with thousands of associates, colleagues, students, and friends, have long supported the goals of the United Nations (UN).

Part II: Participation in the Work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

In the period under review the School Sisters of Notre Dame made active use of the rights and privileges granted to it through its special consultative status with ECOSOC, particularly at meetings of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women. Representatives of the organization participated in United Nations forums, events, commissions, and conferences. SSND organized side-events, participated in multi-stake holder dialogues, made interventions at various UN meetings, and sponsored numerous events around the world in support of the goals and objectives of the UN.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame participated in the following UN meetings:

Economic and Social Council: ECOSOC High Level Segment: *Promoting Rural Development for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development*, NY, 30 April 2003. ECOSOC Multi-Stake Holder Dialogue, NY, 17-18 March 2004. *Preparatory Meeting for the 2005 ECOSOC High-Level Segment*, NY, 16-17 March 2005, the director of the SSND UN/NGO office spoke regarding global commitments to girls' education at the *Education and Literacy Round Table*, 16 March 2005.

Commission for Social Development, NY—40th Session, 11-22 February 2002; 41st Session, 10-21 February 2003; 42nd Session, 4-13 February 2004; 43rd Session, 9-18 February 2005. Edited *NGO Declaration for Action*, 8 February 2005. Provided expert on girls' education for the High Level Round Table, *Social Integration*, NY, 10 February 2005. Submitted written interventions to the Commission: E/CN.5/2003/NGO/2, *Social Responsibility of the Private Sector*; E/CN.5/2003/NGO/10, *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*; E/CN.5/2003/NGO/11, *Sharing Practices in Social Development*; E/CN.5/2003/NGO/12, *Workers' Rights*; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/6, *Empowerment and Participation*; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/10, *Education: Key to Social Development*; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/11, *Gender Equality*.

Commission on the Status of Women, NY—46th Session, 4-15 March 2002; 47th Session, 3-14 March 2003; 48th Session, 1-12 March 2004; 49th Session, 28 February-11 March 2005. Chaired the Girls' Caucus in 2004 and 2005. Provided written interventions: E/CN.6/2003/NGO/2, *Women's Human Rights*; E/CN.6/2003/NGO/20, *Trafficking Prevention Strategies*; E/CN.6/2004/NGO/13, *Gender Equality*; E/CN.6/2004/NGO/20, *Life Cycle Approach to Gender Issues*; E/CN.6/2005/NGO/1, *Women and Access to Water*; E/CN.6/2005/NGO/2, *Equal Pay for Work of Equal Value*; E/CN.6/2005/NGO/3, *Human Trafficking*; E/CN.6/2005/NGO/44, *Girls' Rights*.

Commission on Human Rights, Geneva—58th Session, 18-22 March 2002; 59th Session, 17-21 March 2003.

Commission Sustainable Development, NY—11th Session, 28 April-9 May 2003; 12th Session 14-30 April 2004.

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issue, NY—1st Session, 12-24 May 2002; 2nd Session, 11-23 May 2003; 3rd Session, 10-21 May 2004. Organized a workshop with the Working Group on Girls (WGG), which enabled indigenous girls to describe their situation NY, 10 May 2004.

International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, 18-22 March 2002.

Co-sponsored preparatory seminar, *The Ethical Dimension of Financing for Development*, NY, 5 March 2002.

World Summit for Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002.

World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva, 10-12 December 2003.

Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with NGOs, Civil Society Organizations and the Private Sector, NY, 23-24 June 2005. Submitted comments on the Secretary-General's report, *In Larger Freedom*, which were quoted extensively in the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) overview report, *Compilation of NGO Comments*; Contributed to two other publications for the 2005 five-year review of the UN Millennium Declaration: (1) The NGO/DPI Executive Committee and the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relations with the United Nations (CONGO), *We Will Spare No Effort: A Civil Society Call to Action for the Five Year Review of the UN Millennium Development Goals* (NY: Millennium +5 Network), 2005 and (2) Foster, John W. and Pera Wells. *We the Peoples 2005, Mobilizing for Change: Messages from Civil Society*. (Ottawa: North-South Institute), 2005.

UN Habitat, Nairobi, Kenya, 20th Session, 4-8 April 2005.

Cooperation with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

UN Department of Public Information (DPI)—SSND has been affiliated with DPI since 1993 and has sent a full complement of delegates to the annual DPI/NGO Conference in each of the years in the period under review. Organized and moderated DPI Conference Mid-Day Workshop, *"Educating Girls: Key to Keeping MDG Promises,"* NY, 8 September 2004. Organized and moderated mid-day multi-stakeholder dialogue, *Building Education Partnerships to Provide Quality Education for Girls and Eradicate Poverty*, NY, 8 September 2005.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNICEF Board—NGO Committee on UNICEF's Working Group on Girls, member 2002-present, co-chair (2005-present). Edited and published *Fact Sheets on Girls* (2002). Edited newsletter, *Action for Girls* (2003-2005). Both are available at www.girlsrights.org. Collaborated with UNICEF Regional Planning Coordinator to present workshop for Kenyan teachers re: girls' education, Nairobi, Kenya, 15 December 2003. Prepared education section of the NGO Committee on UNICEF statement to the UNICEF Board, NY, 6-10 June 2005.

UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Council (UNESCO)—Distributed materials, posted resources on SSND website, www.gerhardinger.org, and encouraged participation and advocacy during Education for All Week, 2003-2005.

Other Initiatives in Support of UN Goals and Objectives

Lectures, workshops and symposia 2002-2005—the director of the SSND UN/NGO Office has spoken about the United Nations and the Millennium Development Goals to students and their teachers, university professors, and the general public in Austria, Brazil, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Kenya, Peru, Slovenia, and the United States of America.

Education and advocacy on issues before the UN—Produced and published six study guides on sustainable development (2004-2005): *Call to Transformation and the Earth Charter* (April 2004); *The Scope of the Earth Charter* (July 2004); *Relationship and Community* (August 2004); *Making Connections, Making Choices* (January 2005); *Democracy, Nonviolence and Peace* (April 2005); *The Way Forward* (July 2005). Developed educational programs on human trafficking to train professionals, including law enforcement personnel, health care workers, teachers and the general public, to identify victims and provide essential services. Engaged in various advocacy activities around the MDGs, human rights, debt, trade, and official development assistance at national levels including producing information for constituents and sending letters, emails, and faxes to government officials.

Developed and disseminated materials and promoted participation in UN Observances—International Day of Peace, 21 September 2003-present; Human Rights Day, 10 December 2004-present; UN Day for Women's Rights and International Peace, 8 March 2003-present; World Environment Day, 5 June 2004-present.

Disseminated information about the UN—SSND web page, gerhardinger.org, and SSND newsletter published five times per year (available at gerhardinger.org).

Participated in the on-going work of New York-based NGO Committees and Working Groups—Committee for Social Development and its Sub-Committee on Poverty Eradication, 2002-present; NGO Committee on UNICEF's Working Group on Girls, 2002-present and served as Co-Chair, 2005-present; Committee on Education, 2003-2004.

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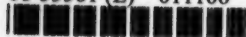
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2007 regular session

22 January-2 February 2007

**Quadrennial reports 2002-2005 submitted through
the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social
Council resolution 1996/31****Note by the Secretary-General****Contents**

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1. ASIAN INDIGENOUS AND TRIBAL PEOPLES NETWORK (AITPN)

(Special Consultative Status granted in 2002)

PART I. Introduction

There is no change in the aims and objectives of Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network (AITPN) as provided in its Trust Deed to advance education of the public by means of securing throughout Asia and elsewhere the observance of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples and other international human rights instruments.

AITPN provides accurate and timely information to national human rights institutions, the United Nations and its specialised mechanisms, as appropriate; conducts research, campaigning and lobbying on country situations or individual cases; undertake programmes to increase the capacity of indigenous peoples through relevant training programmes for indigenous peoples' rights activists and community leaders, provides input into international standard-setting processes on the rights of indigenous peoples; and undertakes programmes to secure the economic, social and cultural rights of indigenous peoples through rights-based approaches to development.

PART II: Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i). Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

AITPN has participated in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies. It also submitted written interventions and shadow reports to various Treaty Bodies:

a. United Nations Commission on Human Rights: 61st Session, 14 March - 22 April 2005

Written Statements submitted

- E/CN.4/2005/NGO/8: LMG: Killing the Commission on Human Rights softly
- E/CN.4/2005/NGO/9: Lawless law enforcement in Bangladesh
- E/CN.4/2005/NGO/10: Religious Profiling of Hindu Minorities in Bangladesh
- E/CN.4/2005/NGO/11: Review of AFSPA in India: Too Little, Too Late
- E/CN.4/2005/NGO/12: Pakistan: Cosmetic gesture for confronting honour killings
- E/CN.4/2005/NGO/13: Libya as the EU Immigration Officer: The Need for a United Nations Special Rapporteur on Refugees
- E/CN.4/2005/NGO/14: Bangladesh Ravages Indigenous Jumma People
- E/CN.4/2005/NGO/15: In the line of fire: Human Rights Defenders in Thailand
- E/CN.4/2005/NGO/16: 25 reasons for a country resolution on Nepal

60th Session, 15 March - 22 April 2004

Written Statements submitted

- E/CN.4/2004/NGO/135: South is not uniform - Plain speak about the globalisation

- E/CN.4/2004/NGO/136: UNICEF and Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) are ignoring ethical questions
- E/CN.4/2004/NGO/137: UNHCR: Protector turns predator for Burmese refugees in New Delhi
- E/CN.4/2004/NGO/138: The damp squib of the international decade: adoption of the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples

59th Session, 17 March-23 April 2003

Written Statements submitted

- E/CN.4/2003/NGO/166: Bangladesh: Squandering Peace and Human Rights Dividend
- E/CN.4/2003/NGO/167: Operation Clean Heart: Bangladesh's dirty operation
- E/CN.4/2003/NGO/168: Persecution of Indigenous Degar People of Vietnam

b. Open Ended Working Group on the Draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

AITPN participated in the 8th session (2 to 13 December 2002), 9th session (15 to 26 September 2003), 10th session (13 to 24 September 2004 and 29 November to 3 December 2004); and 11th session (5-16 December 2005 and 30 January to 3 February 2006) of the Open Ended Working Group on the Draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the Commission on Human Rights to contribute towards standard setting processes.

c. Treaty Bodies:

AITPN submitted various shadow reports to the United Nations Treaty bodies as given below:

1. *Torture & Lawless Law Enforcement in Sri Lanka*, 10 November 2005
2. *Torture in Nepal: A Case for Investigation by Committee Against Torture (CAT)*, 2 November 2005
3. *Dimensions of Discrimination in Nepal, A shadow report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) Committee*, 15 February 2004
4. *The Status of Indigenous and Minority Children in Bangladesh*, June 2003 and
5. *Discrimination against the children of indigenous Degar people in Vietnam*, January 2003

AITPN also participated in the Day of General Discussion on the Rights of indigenous children of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child during its 34th session from 14 September to 3 October 2003.

d. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

AITPN participated in the Third session 10 to 21 May 2004, Fourth Session (16 to 27 May 2005) and Fifth session (15 to 26 May 2006) of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

AITPN has been granted funds by the United Nations Voluntary Funds for Victims of Torture for 2003 and 2004 for its project on legal and quasi-legal assistance to the victims of torture.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals, which now form the basis of the global agenda for the 21st century

AITPN has been monitoring the inclusion of indigenous peoples in the programmes for inclusion of indigenous peoples to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

2. ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS (AFN)

(Special Consultative Status granted in 2002)

PART ONE: Factual Information

Since receiving Special Consultative Status, the following changes have taken place within AFN:

- In July of 2003 the AFN held elections for National Chief and Phil Fontaine was elected by the Chiefs in Canada. Elections are held every three years and the next one will be during our Annual General Assembly from 11-13 July, 2006 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

New organizational affiliations include Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with:

2005 – Aliansi Maysarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN) in Indonesia, Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO), Organizacion de Naciones y Pueblos Indigenas (ONPIA); and **2004** - Reaffirmation of the Declaration of Kinship and Cooperation signed with the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Public Safety Protocol signed with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

Aims/Purposes of the AFN

The AFN is committed to advancing the interests of First Nations peoples generally, more specifically to improve the economic prospects and social conditions for all First Nations peoples. From 2002 to 2005 the AFN carried out these aims through several initiatives, projects and agreements and by our participation in the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP) on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Some of the activities domestically include in 2005 an Agreement in principle for settlement of residential school cases; a final report of the AFN Renewal Commission with 47 recommendations for organizational renewal; an unprecedented collaboration of five National Aboriginal Leaders, thirteen provincial and territorial Premiers and the Prime Minister of Canada all agreeing to endorse the agreement reached at the First Ministers Meeting on Aboriginal Issues in Kelowna, British Columbia in November 2005; and a First Nations-Federal Crown Political Accord on the Recognition and Implementation of First Nations Governments was signed.

PART TWO: Participation in and Contribution to the work of the United Nations**2002**

United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP), 22-26 July 2002, Geneva, Switzerland

- AFN provided an intervention in support of the continuation of the WGIP

Preparatory meetings leading to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), 26 August- 4 September 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa

- Participated as advisors to the Canadian government. The AFN was instrumental in coordinating a meeting of Aboriginal advisors to lobby Canada's Environment Minister to ensure Indigenous Peoples preferred text was implemented into the Final Political Declaration.

Working Group on the United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 28 January- 8 February 2002, Geneva, Switzerland

- National Chief addressed the working group on the right to self-determination.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), 25 October 2002, Geneva, Switzerland

- AFN participated in preparatory meetings for the Roundtable for Aboriginal Peoples on discussions of protection of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge.

2003

UNESCO Forum on "Racism" and on "Languages and Culture", February 2003, Paris, France

- Participated in various domestic meetings with UNESCO on Culture and Language.

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 12-23 May 2003, New York City, New York

- AFN had a significant presence at this 2nd session.

2004

Commission on Human Rights, 15 March- 23 April 2004, Geneva, Switzerland

- AFN monitored progress where several resolutions were passed including a Canadian-led resolution affirming the collective goal to arrive at a consensus text.

UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 10-21 May 2004, New York City, New York

NCAI International Indigenous Peoples Meeting, June 2004, Uncasville, Connecticut, USA

- AFN and members of the First Nations Caucus participated on various discussion panels.

Working Group on the United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 29 November- 4 December 2004, Geneva, Switzerland

- Advocated for Canadian government leadership to forge agreement on substantive matters.

2005

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 16-27 May 2005, New York City, New York

AFN attended and organized 4 interventions entitled "Chiefs Committee on Languages, Theme MDG #2; "Chiefs Committee on Education, Theme MDG #2"; "Special Rapporteur, Theme Human Rights"; and "AFN Women's Council, follow-up to previous special theme (MDG #1 and #2), one side event (during week 1, the international secretariat held a side event to make a joint presentation with CIDA, DIAND and Foreign Affairs, regarding the preparations for the 2nd Indigenous Peoples Summit of the Americas), and one press conference (AFN set up an announcement regarding the 2nd Indigenous Peoples Summit of the Americas for the National Chief to make on May 23).

United Nations Forum on Forests, 16-27 May 2005, New York City, New York

- AFN worked with the National Aboriginal Forestry Association, the office of the BC Regional Chief and the AFN Environment Secretariat to prepare for this meeting. Also selected the Aboriginal candidate to participate on the Government of Canada's delegation.

United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP), 18-22 July 2005, Geneva, Switzerland

- AFN addressed the international and domestic protection of traditional knowledge.

Human Rights Committee, 17 October- 3 November 2005, Geneva, Switzerland

- AFN appeared before the Human Rights Committee to raise questions regarding the Government of Canada's report on the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Issues were raised regarding the right to self-determination, the intent of the federal government in relation to the implementation of the First Nations-Federal Crown Political Accord; the elimination of poverty for First Nations members on and off reserve; the need for implementation of historic Treaties; and First Nation languages.

2005 International Indian Treaty Council Conference, 3-7 August 2005, Hobbema, Alberta, Canada

Working Group on the United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 5-16 December 2005, Geneva, Switzerland

- The AFN delegation advocates for Canadian government leadership to forge agreement on substantive matters. Also participated in preparatory sessions on the United Nations Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples hosted by the Inuit Circumpolar Conference and the Grand Council of the Crees.

Other AFN Initiatives in Support of Overall Goals / Objectives of the United Nations

The AFN has undertaken many initiatives that support the aims of the United Nations and our work domestically and abroad supports the eight United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Some of these initiatives include the AFN/NCAI joint workplan; the First Nations Caucus; the Official Visit of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples; several domestic and international invitations and visits; engagement with the Government of Canada on international activities with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Canadian

International Development Agency and the Department of Foreign Affairs; participation at the Organization of American States Working Group on the proposed American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the 1st Women's Indigenous Summit / Special Summit / 2nd Indigenous Summit of the Americas; Tsunami recovery assistance for Indigenous Peoples from Indonesia; participation in the global anti-poverty strategy; response to the World Bank Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples; participation in the development of an International Indigenous Women's Leadership Program; participation in the ten-year review of Beijing World Conference on Women; and participation in the NGO meeting and the United Nations' ten-year review of the World Summit on Social Development.

3. CHURCH WORLD SERVICE (CWS)

(Special Consultative status granted in 1974)

Principal Areas of Activity: sustainable development; emergency relief, assistance to refugees

Changes in Governance since the last report: Church World Service separated from the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States, becoming a separate organization governed by a Board of Directors.

Changes in the activities of the organization since the last report: Church World Service continues to be a leader in the field of emergency relief, international development, and refugee assistance. There has not been a major shift in the focus of the activities of the organization since the last report, though the shifting needs of our partners in the global south and lessons learned in prior work have lead to some changes in our program delivery.

Church World Service continues to work both domestically in the United States, as well as throughout the world. As of December 2005, CWS had projects in some 80 countries around the world, including Asia/Pacific, the Americas and the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East, and Europe and the former CIS countries. The Disaster Relief and Recovery area work was allocated 34% of the funding, followed by Refugee Resettlement and Assistance at 29%, and International self-help Development Assistance at 12%. (Smaller percentages were allocated for US Hunger and Development, Fundraising and Information, Administration, Education and Advocacy, and Mission Relationships.)

Efforts to improve the understanding of our partners and donors on the work of the United Nations: In order to lift the visibility of the United Nations and the importance of our representation work there, CWS established a page on its web site relating to the United Nations. This page allows CWS to highlight work relating to the UN, and our work here is often featured in a news release sent to the press corps.

Similarly, CWS has developed a series of education and advocacy materials for use by our denominations and supporters that refer to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These materials help bring the MDGs to the attention of members of civil society across the United States, thus helping to build political will for development and for reaching the goals set.

To make the work easier and more effective, Church World Service opened a small office in the Church Center and arranged for representation by a consultant and later employees

of the organization. CWS representatives have engaged with other non-governmental organizations in work on issues of importance to our organization and our partners in the developing world, including access to water, sustainable development, social development, and the complex emergencies in many parts of the world which are impacting families in the most devastating ways.

Part 11 - Church World Service Participation in the work of the United Nations during the reporting period

During the reporting period (2002-2005), Church World Service has had a few shifts in the staffing of its representation function at the United Nations which has created some small gaps in our participation during this period. Nevertheless, CWS has been involved on key issues of importance to its global partners and constituents. Church World Service has participated in the following meetings:

- **United Nations Commission for Social Development (CSocD)**

In the 2005 43rd session of the CSocD (9-18 Feb. 2005) in New York, CWS Representative Albert Gyan played an active role, which included participation on a panel sponsored by the Sub-Committee on the Elimination of Poverty called "Participation Works: International Success in the Fight Against Poverty." CWS worked to ensure that language was included in the outcome document, and worked closely with other NGOs active in the CSocD to bring issues to the attention of the Bureau and the participating member states.

- **United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)**

CWS was an active participant in the CSD in 2004 (14-30 April) and 2005 (11-22 April). In both years, with the particular focus on water, CWS joined with other NGOs to emphasize in particular the challenges faced by many of our partners in the developing world in accessing water, and the need to look at access to water within a rights-based framework. CWS joined other Major Groups in producing side events and in raising the awareness of the member states and the Bureau of the importance of the issues to many in the global south with whom we work.

- **United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**

During the meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women on 4-17 March 2005, Church World Service presented a side event entitled "Grassroots Women's Strategies to Combat HIV/AIDS: Home Based Care Approach".

- **Financing for Development**

Thanks to the participation of its consultant, Ms. Philo Morris, CWS was actively represented in the work at the FFD meetings during the 2002-2005. CWS worked collaboratively with other NGOs, cooperating in side events and taking an active role in presenting the concerns of our partners to the member states involved in the negotiations.

- **UN General Assembly 23-24 June 2005 Civil Society Hearings, New York**

Church World Service Representative Albert Gyan took part in the Hearing within the "Freedom from Want" Cluster.

• **Commemoration of World AIDS Day (1 December)**

CWS has commemorated World AIDS Day annually in a number of ways. On 1 December 2003, Church World Service and other organizations in the Geneva-based Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance worked with UNAIDS to launch a poster exhibition, "Signs of Hope, Steps for Change", featuring artwork created in over 23 countries addressing the stigma and discrimination suffered by those living with HIV and AIDS. The exhibit remained in the UN General Assembly Visitors' Lobby in New York through January 23, 2004, helping to raise awareness among the visitors to and employees of the United Nations.

Operational Collaboration

As a major player in international emergency relief, Church World Service has maintained a close relationship with the **Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)**. For example, CWS provided immediate relief in the Pakistan earthquake of January 2004 (and fall of 2005), and the tsunami disaster of December 2004. CWS remains very active in both of these areas, providing continuing assistance as the populations try to re-establish their livelihoods and communities.

In September 2005, Church World Service also worked closely with **UNICEF** in the provision of assistance to those affected in the Gulf Coast of the United States by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Specifically, UNICEF provided "Schools in a Box" which were distributed by CWS to devastated areas. This collaboration not only provided important assistance to those affected, but helped to lift the visibility of the United Nations and UNICEF in particular in an area in which the UN is not always clearly understood.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights -- CWS contributed to the development of a training manual on Human Rights Monitoring prepared by the OHCHR during the reporting period.

Conclusion

Despite some brief gaps in staffing during the reporting period, Church World Service has been active and effective in bringing the needs of our partners in the global south to various United Nations fora and in sharing with our contributors and friends the important work of the United Nations. We have built relationships in many areas of the Organization, and look forward to sharing with you in our next report the work already underway to build on these efforts.

4. DOMINICAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

(Special Consultative Status Granted in 2002)

Introductory Statement

The Dominican Leadership Conference (DLC) represents 42,340 Roman Catholic sisters, brothers, women and men serving in over 120 countries-whose expertise and professionalism include, but are not limited to: education, medicine and health care, social service, environmental science, communications, arts, economics, women's rights, theology and spirituality, law, natural science, political science, international studies.

Members of the DLC have established, staffed, administered and continued to support educational institutions from preschool to university level; established and staffed and administered hospitals, clinics, hospices, nursing homes, assisted living facilities; educated and supported professionals in human services including cross cultural gatherings, family and individual counseling, and treatment of addictions; sponsored community development projects on the grassroots, national, regional levels advocating for women, children, displaced and marginalized persons and the indigenous peoples; supported and advocated for rights of immigrants and refugees, the elimination of racism and intolerance.

Participation in Economic and Social Commission and United Nation Conferences and Meetings

DLC representatives attended and participated in the following UN Conferences/ commissions

- Special Session of the General Assembly on Children, UN Headquarters, NY
8-10 May 2002
- 2005 World Summit UN Headquarters, NY 14-16 September

UNDPI: representatives attended weekly briefings and workshops as well as the annual DPI/NGO September meetings. Communication about these briefings as well as about other activities of the DLC is facilitated through an on-line newsletter www.domlife.org and through information posted on the web page www.dlc.org and through a list serve. In addition newsletters of the membership organizations frequently report on DLC/NGO activity. Numerous educational activities are conducted either at or near the UN Headquarters or at the membership site. The main representative served on the DPI Planning Committee and the sub-committee on Midday Workshops for the Conferences in 2004 and 2005

Commission on Social Development

DLC members have participated in the Commission for Social Development; have been active member of the NGO Committee on Social Development and have been involved in planning for the Annual NGO Forum and in collaboration with other NGOs prepared the NGO statement to the Commission, related to the eradication of poverty, issues related to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and development. Members of the DLC are active in educational, health and social development programs.

During the following sessions of the CSocD, the DLC, in cooperation with other NGOs submitted the following written statements:

41st Session 10-21 February 2003:

E/CN.5/2003/NGO 1-Forging partnerships for social development; E/CN.5/2003/NGO2 - Social responsibility of the private sector; E/CN.5/2003/NGO10 International finance institutions and their effect on social development strategies; E/CN.5/2003/NGO 11 - Forging National and international cooperation for social development, sharing of expertise and practice; E/CN.5/2003/NGO 12 -Impact of employment strategies on social development

42nd Session 4-13 February 2004

E/CN.5/2004/NGO 1- Improving public sector awareness; E/CN.6/2004/NGO 7- Improving public sector awareness

43rd Session 9-18 February 2005

E/CN.5/2005/NGO/3, review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the 24th special session of the General Assembly - youth participation; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/5, review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the 24th special session of the General Assembly -HIV/AIDS pandemic; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/6, review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the 24th special session of the General Assembly eradication of poverty; E/CN.5/2005/NGO8, review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the 24th special session of the General Assembly structural adjustment; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/9, review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the 24th special session of the General Assembly management of financial resources; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/10, review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the 24th special session of the General Assembly Education as key to social development;

E/CN.5/2005/NGO/11 review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the 24th special session of the General Assembly - equality and equity of men and women; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/12 review of further implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and the outcome of the 24th special session of the General Assembly stable employment and decent work

Commission on Human Rights

The DLC attended and participated in the Commission on Human Rights advocating for the rights of children and for religious minorities. We supported the following oral statements at the:

60th Session, Geneva 15 March 23 April 2004

E/CN.4/2004/SR.53,- concern about the continued application of the death penalty; E/CN.4/2004/SR.33 par 56, concern about the rise of religious discrimination and intolerance; E/CN.4/2004/SR.3 (item 107) -violation of the rights of people whose lands have been used by other governments as bombing sites.

61st Session Geneva 14 March-22 April 2005

E/CN.4/2005/SR.45 (item 107)- human rights of migrant; E/CN.4/2005/SR.26 (item 35)- violation of the human rights of people whose land has been used by other governments as bombing sites; E/CN.4/2005/SR.20 (item22) - violation of human rights of the Iraqi people due to violence and insecurity

Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

The DLC collaborated with other NGOs in submitting the following written statements supporting the administration of justice and the rule of law and economic and social rights

55th Session Geneva 2003 28 July 15 August

E/CN.4/Sub.2/2003/SR.11 paragraph 27-30 - *issue of discrimination in the use of the death penalty*

56th Session Geneva 26 July 13 August 2004

E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/SR.19 par. 80-84 -*continuation of the death penalty*;
E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/SR.7 par 11 -*discrimination against religious minorities*;
E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/SR.10 paragraph 57-*Violation of the human rights of people whose land had been used by other governments as bombing practice sites*;
E/CN.4/Sub.2/2004/SR.2 paragraph 4 -*Concern about the violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Iraq*

57th Session Geneva 25 July-12 August 2005

E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/16 item 62, -*trafficking of persons as a violation of human rights*;
E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/SR.12 item 72 - *discrimination against religious minorities and religious intolerance on the basis of religion*; E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/SR. 4 item 3 -*extreme violence and insecurity of the people of Iraq*.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

The DLC participates annually in the meetings of the CSW. Our members, active in both sending and receiving countries are very involved in programs supporting persons who have been trafficked, and in initiatives to prevent this abuse. We have worked with other NGOs to sponsor panels and side events as well as supported written statements. We have submitted written statements at the following sessions:

49th Session 8 February-11 March 2005

E/CN.6/2005NGO/1 -*implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives*; E/CN.6/2005NGO/4 - *review of gender mainstreaming in entities of the United Nations System*; E/CN.6/2005NGO/23 - *current challenges and forward-looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls*

48th Session 1-12 March 2004

E/CN.6/2004/NGO 13 - *Role of men and boys in achieving gender equality*

In addition, DLC members attended several session of CEDAW 13-31 January 2003, 30 June-15 July 2003, 12-30 January 2004 and 5-22 July 2005.

Commission on Sustainable Development

DLC has worked with the principles of Agenda 21 as well as with the Earth Charter in its educational and healthcare institutions. Numerous workshops based on UN principles have been conducted throughout the DLC network. DLC has participated in and organized with others, side events at UN commissions. Many members have founded, and continue to administer sustainable development activities. DLC membership has established, funded and continues to support centers for environmental education, and community supported agriculture such as Genesis Farm, <http://www.genesisfarm.org/> and Crown Point Center

Members attended and participated in the following sessions of the CSD:

14th Session 14-30 April 2004; 13th Session 18-April 9 May 2003

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Members of the DLC have worked with and supported the rights of Indigenous Peoples and have attended and participated in the Permanent Forum. DLC membership is involved in educational and social development programs with Indigenous Peoples: *Third Session 10-21 May 2004*, UN Headquarters, New York; *Second Session 12- 23 May 2003* UN Headquarters, New York

Initiatives

DLC sponsored, conducted a number of initiatives supportive of the UN

During the period of 2003-2005

- Conducted UN awareness opportunities in educational settings; Conducted educational programs related to particular UN activity (Millennium Development Goals); Developed contacts with members in order to bring their experience to the UN; Hosted opportunities for membership groups at the UN (e.g. DLC Communication Network, Leadership Council of the DLC); Developed and conducted workshops on Human Trafficking in educational settings (High schools and colleges) and for membership groups throughout the United States.

DLC Representatives served on the following UN/NGO Committees:

- NGO Committee on Human Rights; NGO Committee on Social Development; NGO Committee the Status of Women; NGO Committee on Financing for Development; NGO Committee on HIV/AIDS; NGO Committee on Disarmament

And on the following

- NGO Working Group on Israel/Palestine; NGO Working Group on Iraq (representative served as Chair); NGO Working Group on Girls

5. HONG KONG FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CENTRES

(Special Consultative Status granted in 2002)

Part I: About the Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres (HKFWC)

A. Background:

We are a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) situated in Hong Kong, Special Administrative Region of China (Hong Kong SAR of China).

B. Aims of the HKFWC:

1. To promote the rights and status of women; To help women develop their individual potential; To collaborate and co-ordinate with agencies and groups concerned with women's issues; To advise decision-making bodies on the needs of women and the resources required to meet these needs so as to encourage provision of desired services of the highest quality; To pioneer the development of resources and services that are in the interest of women.

C. Means to achieve our aims:

1. By providing women-centred service, we serve women in the community to develop their individual potential, to meet their multi-faceted needs, and to empower them.
2. By organizing a wide spectrum of thematic projects, we have fostered women's empowerment at both an individual level and a collective level.
3. By advocating for the causes of women in relation to social institutions, government policies and their operations, HKFWC has strived to improve the lot of women.

Part II: Participation in and Contribution to the work of the United Nations (UN)

A. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and other United Nations meetings:

1. 49th session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) 28 February- 11 March 2005 New York: Ms Carole PETERSEN, Honorary Consultant to the organization, represented the HKFWC in this session. Ms PETERSEN presented a paper at a workshop organized by the Korean Institute for Women and Politics, on political empowerment of women. She also distributed "Comments of the HKFWC on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) in Hong Kong SAR of China".
2. For Submission to Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) of the United Nations 25 April- 13 May 2005 in Geneva, Switzerland: Professor Virginia Bonoan-Dandan, the Chairperson of the CESCR, visited Hong Kong SAR of China in March 2005. The HKFWC shared with her the plight of women at the grassroots level, and pointed out to her that women in Hong Kong SAR of China do not enjoy adequate economic and social protection.
3. The Tenth Anniversary Commemoration of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing+10 Conference) 29 August to 1 September 2005, Beijing: The sponsors of this conference were: the National Working Committee on Women and Children under the State Council of China, the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, and the UN System in China. As HKFWC is in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC, Dr Betty ENG (Chairperson) and Ms Man Ying FONG (Director) were invited to be members of the official delegation of Hong Kong SAR of China.

B. Activities carried out in cooperation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations

1. Focal Point of United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW)

HKFWC was accepted to the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System (GAINS) as a Focal Point and member of the Research and Training Network in October 2001.

2. 5th East Asian Women's Forum (EAWF) (19 to 22 December 2003, Hong Kong SAR of China)

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Education (UNESCO-UIE) were sponsors of the 5th EAWF. In addition to being the secretary of the hosting committee, HKFWC co-organized meetings, facilitated and presented in workshops, and submitted 5 papers for workshop discussions entitled "Accounting for Women's Work

Value in Dual Economies—Paid and Unpaid”, “Homemakers’ Right As Citizens”, “Women Health & Inequality in HK”, “Engendering ICT Development: A Rights Perspective”, and “Experience on Implementation of Continuing Education for mid-aged Women: Hong Kong Case”. In sum, the papers are concerned about the rights of unpaid homemakers/housewives, women’s health, women and ICT, as well as women and education. Over 350 participants from China, Hong Kong SAR of China, Japan, Mongolia, Taiwan Province of China, and the Republic of Korea attended the 5th EAWF. HKFWC itself sponsored 19 women members and 16 staff to participate in the forum.

3. Asia Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing+10 (APNGO) (30 June to 3 July 2004, Bangkok)

HKFWC sponsored 2 women members from “Hong Kong Homemakers’ Alliance”, and 2 staff to attend the APNGO. In addition, 2 members of the Executive Committee of HKFWC attended. The foundation organized a caucus on unpaid work and successfully mobilized 4 other Asian NGOs to submit a “Report on Unpaid Work Caucus”.

C. *Initiatives in support of the overall goals and objectives of the United Nations*

1. Committee for Asian Women (CAW) Exchange Program (9 to 13 October 2004, Hong Kong SAR of China): We shared our efforts in organizing a cooperative with other Asian women workers’ groups. This was an attempt to address to the theme of women and economic empowerment.

2. China and Hong Kong SAR of China Joint Events in Celebration of Beijing+10 (24 to 27 April 2005, Beijing)

The 3 co-organizers of this event were ACWF, the Health, Welfare, and Food Bureau of the Hong Kong SAR of China, and the Women’s Commission of Hong Kong SAR of China (WoC). HKFWC sent 2 representatives to join in the event. The organization’s Director was a speaker in the concurrent session.

3 Participation in Decision Making

Ex-Director, Ms Yu CHAN, was an appointed member of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) from May 2003 to May 2005. In December 2005, Ms Man Ying FONG, current Director, was appointed to the WoC for a term of 3 years starting from January 2006.

4. Gender Mainstreaming

This organization has been involved in various government advisory bodies and as members of other NGOs in order to put forth our opinions on various social issues with a gender perspective. HKFWC has also been engaging in gender sensitivity education and training to promote gender mainstreaming and to advocate for gender equality. It organized a “Symposium on Gender Equality and ICTs Development in HK”.

5. Promotion of Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Since July 2004, HKFWC has been a member of the CEDAW Network, which is a group for local education and promotion of CEDAW in Hong Kong SAR of China. In collaboration with other members of the Network, we translated the “Building Capacity for Change: Training Manual on CEDAW 2001” written by International Women’s Rights Action Watch - Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP) into Chinese. HKFWC itself published one

booklet on promotion of CEDAW in March 2003. A survey on Women's Understanding of CEDAW and Concept of Equality was conducted in 2003.

6. Advocacy

The HKFWC's advocacy work ranged from meeting with or lobbying government officials, Legislative Councilors, professional bodies, voicing our opinions through media, to submitting position papers regarding different social policies. Furthermore, it emphasized women's rights to civic participation in the decision making process. In March 2005, echoing to the 10th Anniversary of BPFA, the HKFWC organized the "Women's Political Exchange Forum 2005" with "Women and Poverty" as the theme to draw the society's attention to feminization of poverty.

7. Collaboration with women's NGOs and other NGOs

HKFWC collaborated with other NGOs in Hong Kong SAR of China to make suggestions and proposals regarding social issues and public policies which affect the welfare of women as well as monitoring the progress of such. Issues addressed included feminization of poverty, violence against women, sex discrimination, retirement protection, economic participation, sexual health and AIDS prevention.

8. Publications

The HKFWC reviewed and published its experiences in servicing women with an aim to advancing issues of concern to women. A booklet to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the New Territories Land (Exemption) Ordinance, which signified the struggle of indigenous women for their inheritance rights, was published in December 2004.

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**Quadrennial reports 2002-2005 submitted through
the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and
Social Council resolution 1996/31****Note by the Secretary-General****Contents**

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1. CONFERENCE OF NGOS IN CONSULTATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (CONGO)

(General Consultative Status granted in 2002)

PART I. Introduction

i. Aims and purposes of the organization

CONGO was founded in 1948 to safeguard the rights of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in consultative status, based on article 71 of the United Nations Charter and currently on Economic and Social Council Resolution 1996/31. For over 50 years, CONGO has actively promoted the participation of civil society organizations in the work of the United Nations and its agencies. More recently, CONGO has made a major push to influence and democratize global decision-making processes. With about 500 members representing all categories of NGOs (many of which are umbrella organizations themselves), at all levels (locally, nationally and internationally) and dealing with all major issues, CONGO is a global organization and a recognized interface between the United Nations and NGOs.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

1. 58th – 61st sessions of the **Commission on Human Rights (CHR)**, Geneva, 2002 – 2005: CONGO participated every year to the Commission and organized orientation sessions for newcomers; regular briefings for NGOs; consultations and parallel events (such as the much noted one on Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals on 5 April, 2005). For the years 2003 – 2005 CONGO co-produced a website (first www.room17.org and then www.ngochr.org) featuring articles and reports on plenary meetings, NGOs parallel events, interviews with NGOs representatives and analyses. At the 59th session (17 March-25 April 2003), the President delivered a statement on regional mechanisms. CONGO actively accompanied the transition from the Commission to the Human Rights Council and the President wrote a letter to the President of the General Assembly (26 January, 2006) on the need to safeguard the rights of NGOs to fully participate in the new Council. The President also delivered a statement (12 April 2005), co-signed by 18 NGOs, during the first Informal Session on the subject of reform and a second statement in form of recommendations to the High Commissioner for Human Rights as input for her Plan of Action (29 April 2005)
2. **Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, Social Forum and Working Group on Indigenous Populations.** CONGO produced newsletters and a website (www.ngochr.org) covering the events and organized an introductory meeting to the Social Forum in 2004.

3. **2nd World Assembly on Ageing**, Madrid, 7-10 April 2002: CONGO participated throughout; the President addressed the closing session of the NGO Forum and was a panellist on a round-table.
4. **NGO Fora to the Economic and Social Council High-level Segments (HLS)** (annually, New York and Geneva). In cooperation with the NGO Section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and other partners, CONGO organized every year an NGO Forum (as for example on rural development on 27 June 2003 in Geneva) on the HLS' theme with the aim of impacting on the ministerial declaration adopted by the HLS. The President presented key recommendations from the Geneva Forum to the HLS on 30 June 2003 and again, after another Forum process in New York, key recommendations to the HLS on 30 June 2005. She also delivered a statement on 'Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (Ecosoc) to the Coordination Segment of Ecosoc on 11 July 2002.
5. **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)** (Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005). CONGO participated in all Preparatory Committees (Prepcoms) of both phases and in the two Summits. CONGO was a key actor in the creation of the Civil Society Bureau, (as interface to the Governmental Bureau) of which the President ensured the co-chairpersonship and some CONGO staff the secretariat. The President also participated in several regional and national preparatory meetings (Bucharest, 7-9 November 2002, Tokyo, 13-15 January 2003). Before and during the sessions, CONGO organized briefings for NGOs, parallel events on critical issues (including on eradication of poverty, human rights, interfaith dialogue and combating HIV/AIDS using entertainment), co-chaired the daily meetings of the Civil Society Plenary and organized the WSIS Civil Society News Centre (<http://www.wsis-online.net/csnews>). The President also spoke at the opening ceremony of the Geneva Summit (9 December 2003) and at the Tunis Summit, and the Programme Officer at a side-event on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Throughout the process, in particular towards the Tunis phase, CONGO facilitated and coordinated the participation of NGOs and mediated between governments and civil society on sensitive issues such as human rights.
6. **World Summit on Sustainable Development** (Johannesburg, 26 August-4 September 2002). CONGO participated in two PrepComs and at the Summit itself and tried to bridge there between those NGOs who served as "major groups" at the Governmental Summit and the ones that were located very far away, at the Global People's Forum at Nasrec. CONGO was also a member of the International Steering Committee set up to organize the People Forum's official Commissions and organized one of such Commissions: 'MDGs and Sustainable Development' which included eminent speakers such as Jeffrey Sachs.
7. **56th World Health Assembly** (May 2003). CONGO created a website covering the official session and side events, www.who.org

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

1. **Capacity building for the Informal NGO Regional Network in Africa (IRENE)**, Tunis, January 2002. CONGO co-organized this meeting with the DESA NGO Section and a Tunisian NGO to launch the IRENE Network in Africa.
2. **High-level consultation and capacity building workshop for the UN NGO Informal Regional Network (IRENE) in Eastern Europe** (May 2003). CONGO was a partner with the DESA NGO Section to launch the IRENE in Eastern Europe.
3. **Annual Department of Public Information (DPI)/NGO Conference**. CONGO has been invited every year to participate at the Conference, during which the President delivered a statement at the opening sessions. (for example on the theme of: "Millennium Development Goals, Civil Society takes Action" in 2004).
4. **UNCTAD XI** (Brasil, June 2004). The Programme Officer participated at the Civil Society Forum, delivered a statement at the Interactive thematic Session on Partnerships and published an article on a Swiss daily. CONGO also participated at subsequent Civil Society Hearings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Board and delivered a statement on the follow-up to commitments taken at major UN conferences.
5. **Cardoso Report on UN – Civil Society Relations**: CONGO gave input to the experts and organized, together with the Non-Governmental Liaison Service, several consultations with NGOs, in New York and in Geneva, to the Panel's recommendations.
6. **Informal interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector** (23-24 June 2005). The President had the honour to speak at the Official Opening after the General Assembly President, Mr. Jean Ping and the Deputy Secretary-General, Louise Frechette.

iii) Activities undertaken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

1. **International Policy Dialogue on the Millennium Development Goals** (Berlin, 27-28 June 2002). The President presented a paper on civil society and the MDGs which became the springboard for CONGO activities during the subsequent Johannesburg Summit and beyond.
2. **Asian Civil Society Forum**, Bangkok, 9-13 December, 2002. CONGO organized this forum with the support of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) under the title of "UN-NGOs Partnerships for Democratic Governance: Building Capacities and Networks for Human Rights and Sustainable Development", in order to raise the awareness of Asian NGOs about the MDGs and to assess their contribution to the Goals' implementation.

3. **Asian Civil Society Forum 2004** (Bangkok, 21-25 November 2004, UN ESCAP): "Building UN/NGOs Partnerships for Democratic Governance through the MDGs". This Forum was meant as a follow-up to the previous one and it aimed to amplify Asian peoples' voices in the global deliberation processes, by focussing particularly on the MDGs and the then upcoming Millennium + 5 event.
4. **Latin American and Caribbean Seminar** (Santiago de Chile, 1-4 June 2004). With the support of the Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) the Seminar took place under the heading "Partnerships for a New Era: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals" and was attended by some 130 participants, representing 120 local, national and regional NGOs from 13 countries.
5. **Millennium + 5: CONGO** co-organized the NGO input into the Millennium + 5 General Assembly review. Together with the Department of Public Information (DPI), CONGO created the **Millennium+5 NGO Network** and convened parallel NGO consultations on the Millennium +5 Summit at every major UN Commission session from January to June 2005, and launched in June 2005 the report "We Will Spare No Effort", a 'Civil Society Call to Action for the Five Year Review of the UN Millennium Summit and the Millennium Development Goals'.
6. **Regional Crime Prevention Forum for NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe** (Vienna International Centre, Vienna/Austria, 27-28 October 2005). With the Support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), CONGO Vienna organized this Forum on Crime Prevention. It was attended by 138 participants and focussed on trafficking in human beings, corruption and urban crime.

iv) Activities in support of global principles

1. The President and the Programme Officer participated regularly as speakers at conferences and round-tables on UN related issues and civil society.
2. The Programme Officer gave several lectures on UN – civil society relations, UN human rights mechanisms and NGOs, the contribution of NGOs to the democratization of global governance, etc, at the Universities of Geneva and Grenoble and to visiting students of the Australian National University, Santa Clara University, Boston University and a Japanese University.

2. ECOPEACE MIDDLE EAST ENVIRONMENTAL NGO FORUM

(Special Consultative Status granted in 1998)

I. Introduction

i. Aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action

Eco Peace Middle East Environmental NGO Forum, commonly known as Friends of the Earth Middle East (FoEME) is an organization that brings together Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli environmentalists. Our primary objective is the promotion of cooperative efforts to protect our shared environmental heritage. In so doing, we seek to advance both sustainable regional development and the creation of necessary conditions for lasting peace in our region. FoEME has offices in Amman, Bethlehem, and Tel-Aviv.

The people and wildlife of our region are dependent on many of the same natural resources. Shared surface and sub-surface freshwater basins, shared seas, common flora and fauna species and a shared air-shed are some of the characteristics that necessitate regional cooperation.

The Jordan River Basin, a major source of freshwater in a water scarce region, the Gulf of Aqaba, a highly sensitive eco-system giving life to arguably the world's most beautiful coral reef, and the Dead Sea, the lowest point on earth and the world's saltiest non-shallow body of water, are all examples of unique shared eco-systems in the region which necessitate regional cooperation if they are to be preserved.

ii. Changes that had a significant impact on the organization vision and/or functions in terms of orientation, program or scope of work

New organization affiliation, 2005: Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP) - a coalition of grassroots organizations which foster people-to-people coexistence in the Middle East.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings (+side events)

- World Summit for Sustainable Development, 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa; FoEME exhibited at the 'Water Dome', side event presenting water issues in the Middle East
- Preparatory Committee IV-Peoples Forum: World Summit on Sustainable Development, Side Event, 4 June, 2002, Bali, Indonesia
- United Nations Secretary General High Level Panel on Security: 2004, New York,
- United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, April 2004, New York,
- United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development - Side Event - "Protecting Shared Israeli-Palestinian Water Resources from Sewage", 27 April, 2004, New York,

- United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development – Held side event together with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) – “Water, Peace and Sustainable Development – Implementing Johannesburg to Prevent and Resolve Conflicts”, 29 April, 2004, New York
- United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, May 2005, New York

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

- UNEP extensively consulted with FoEME in its 2003 “Desk Study on the Environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territories”
- United Nations Decade of Culture of Peace – 5 year report. FoEME contributed information about its “Good Water Neighbors” project as well as recommendations for the future.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) gave support and participated in FoEME’s Conference “Rehabilitate the Jordan River” for World Heritage Listing of Jordan River and Dead Sea, 8 March, 2005, Peace Island, Jordan
- UNEP - participated in FoEME Conference “Rehabilitate the Jordan River”, 8 March 2005, Peace Island, Jordan

iii. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals

- The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in the geographic region of the Middle East (Jordan, Palestine, Israel) in relation to:

Goal 3 – Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

ACTIONS:

- FoEME held workshops for women in Jordan, Palestine and Israel dealing with existing environment & water reality, the promotion of more sustainable water management at the municipal / household level and good governance – 35 workshops

Goal 7 – Ensure Environmental Sustainability

- *Target 1 - Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources*

ACTIONS:

- Water scarcity awareness activities – 6,800 youth, 6,000 adults in Jordan, Palestine and Israel.
- Teachers trained in use of “WaterCare” book for school curriculum
- “Mayors Forum” calling for Rehabilitating the Jordan River / Dead Sea
- Helped negotiate declaration; “Mediterranean NGO Declaration for Johannesburg”, December 2002, Nice France

- Publication: Jordanian NGO Shadow Report to the Government of Jordan's Assessment of Progress in Implementing Agenda 21, June 2002, Bali, Indonesia
 - Publication: Israeli NGO Shadow Report to the Government of Israel's Assessment of Progress in Implementing Agenda 21, June 2002, Bali, Indonesia
 - Publication: "The Dead Sea – Between Life and Death, Learning from Other Lakes", October 2002, Ein Bokek, Israel and Amman, Jordan
 - Conference: "After Johannesburg, Where Do We Go From Here?", 21 November 2002, Washington DC, The United States
 - NGO Discussion Paper: "Participatory Review of Opportunities to Strengthen the Collaboration of UNEP / Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) with Civil Society", Catania, Italy November 2003
 - Strategy Workshop: "The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) Formulation Process: NGO Recommendations", Madrid, January 2004
 - Publication: Advancing Conservation and Sustainable Development of the Dead Sea Basin – Broadening the Debate on Economic and Management Issues", March, 2004, Israel
 - Paper: "UNEP / MAP (United Nation Environment Program Mediterranean Action Plan) - NGO Partner Input to the MSSD", October 2004
 - Conference: "From Johannesburg to New York via Rome – The Israeli Government's Sustainable Development Strategy in the Mediterranean and Global Contexts", Tel Aviv University, February, 2005
 - Stakeholders Conference: "Civil Society Conference on MSSD, Rome, March 2005
- *Target 2 - Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation*

ACTIONS:

- Construction of 25 grey water / rainwater collection systems in schools and municipal buildings, thus providing drinking water otherwise not available
- Produce 3 reports on sanitation solutions above Mountain Aquifer supplying major drinking water source for Palestinians and Israelis

3. FEDERATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS KENYA (FIDA KENYA) (Special Consultative Status granted in 2002)

PART 1: Introduction

(I) The Federation of Women Lawyers –Kenya [FIDA Kenya] is a non-profit, non-partisan and non-governmental membership organization whose vision is to help create a society that is free of discrimination against women.

Work towards the realization of the organizations' vision is undertaken through the following: provision of legal aid to a limited number of needy women; monitoring government's compliance with international women's rights conventions; regional engagement for women's empowerment;

lobbying and advocating for reform of laws that discriminate against women, building strategic partnerships with state and non-state actors, educating women on their legal rights and how to claim them through self-representation in court; research, monitoring and reporting women's rights violations; Undertaking of transformative public interest litigation.

PART II

(i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations Meetings

FIDA Kenya has been able to monitor government's compliance with International Human rights Instruments and the activities undertaken include the following:

- ✓ Attended the 46th Session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW) held on 4th – 15th March 2002, at the UN headquarters. FIDA Kenya presented a shadow statement titled "Eradication of poverty, through the empowerment of women through their life cycle in a globalizing world and environmental management and mitigation of natural disasters: a gender perspective"
- ✓ FIDA Kenya was part of the government delegation that prepared and submitted the 3rd & 4th Country report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee during its 28th Session on 13th –31st January 2003 in New York. FIDA Kenya also prepared a shadow report on CEDAW.
- ✓ Attended the 47th Session of the CSW in New York, 13-14 March, 2003
- ✓ FIDA Kenya was part of the government delegation to Addis Ababa Ethiopia, on the 24th to 28th March 2003, for a Meeting of Experts and Ministers on the Draft Protocol to the *African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights relating to the rights of Women in Africa*;
- ✓ Preparation and presentation of a statement on the general status of women in Kenya and the work of FIDA Kenya to the 31st Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights in May 2003 in Niamey, Niger to representatives of Governments and NGOs from over 30 African countries
- ✓ Presented a Kenyan Country Paper on Human Rights during a training organized by the African Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) on 5th May, 2003 to about 30 representatives of NGOs, from Africa.
- ✓ Attended the 48th Session of the CSW in New York, 1st-12th March 2004 and presented a Shadow Statement titled "Women's Equal Participation in Conflict Prevention, Conflict Management & Conflict Resolution and in Post Conflict Peace Building."
- ✓ FIDA Kenya was part of the Committee that drafted the 1st Country Report on International Convention on Economic Social & Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 2005.

- ✓ Attended the 49th Session of the CSW on 28th February – 11th March 2005, New York. FIDA Kenya presented a shadow statement on “Trafficking in Persons”.
- ✓ Jointly with the Center for Reproductive Rights, presented a shadow letter to the Human Rights Committee during its 83rd Session on 14th March – 1st April 2005 in New York.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations and/or specialized agencies in the field and/ or at Headquarters

- ✓ Preparation of shadow statements during the various CSW meetings in New York from 2002 to 2005.
- ✓ Preparation of a shadow report to the CEDAW Committee in 2003.
- ✓ Preparation of shadow statement to the Human Rights Committee on implementation of International Covenant on Civil Political Rights (ICCPR) in 2004.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

FIDA Kenya formed part of the government delegation during the MDGs summit in New York, from 9th – 18th September 2005 where Kenya presented its country report. Activities in line with the MDGS included the following:

✓ **Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education**

ACTION

- ✓ In 2003, distributed sanitary towels to 4000 girls in upper primary and secondary schools countrywide to retain them in school during menstruation
- ✓ In 2003, FIDA lobbied government to zero-rate taxes on sanitary towels.
- ✓ In 2002 and 2003, 300 teachers and education officers trained on gender, human rights and gender based violence in schools.

✓ **Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women**

- Between 2002-2005, 220 Government officials and parliamentarians sensitized on women's rights and international instruments and means of domesticating the same.
- Lobbied parliamentarians to pass the following Bills: -

Domestic Violence Family Protection Bill; Sexual Offences Bill; Equality Bill; Affirmative Action Bill; The National Commission on Gender and Development Bill (Passed into law in 2003)

- FIDA Kenya assisted Eritrean Women organizations in compiling their first CEDAW reporting 2003
- Presented a paper on the use of law to safeguard women's rights to health during a meeting in Hom Netherlands on developing a Gender Impact Assessment Tool using CEDAW and ICESCR from 16th – 20th June 2003.
- Provided legal advice and representation to a total of 8289 clients, in 2002; 11,023 in 2003; 14,927 in 2004 and 11,107 in 2005.
- Hosted activities to create awareness on human rights/ gender based violence
- Trained 200 community based monitors and paralegals countrywide to monitor gender-based violations at the grass roots.
- Trained 6,500 police officers and 175 chiefs on human rights, family law, succession law and handling of victims of gender-based violations.
- Published a Police Training Manual on Gender & Human Rights in 2002.
- During the constitutional review process 2002-2004 published various manuals and publications that were used to engender the draft constitution
- Participated in activities on engendering the political process to ensure successful participation of women in 2002 general elections.
- Training of 20 judges and 200 lawyers on Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Production of Annual reports on the status of women's rights in Kenya.
- Production of IEC materials for lobbying and advocacy on implementation of women's rights.

✓ Goal 5: Improve maternal health

- Sensitized medical officers from two regions in Kenya on how to identify, counsel and refer victims of gender based violations such as rape, defilement
- Drafted a Health Rights of Woman Assessment Instrument (HERWAI) in collaboration with the Humanist Committee on Human Rights (HOM), Utrecht, the Netherlands. HERWAI has been tested in Kenya and is a lobbying tool primarily meant to be used to target national governments to implement women's rights to health.

ii) Activities in support of Global Principles

International Women's Day, International Human Rights Day, World Population Day, the Day of the African Child, World Aids Day and World Human Rights Day have been observed and celebrated by the organization in collaboration with other stakeholders in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005.

4. IPAS

Special Consultative Status granted in 1998

I. Introduction

Ipas has contributed significantly to UN conferences and activities since obtaining consultative status in 1998. Ipas staff have participated in UN special sessions and related preparatory meetings; served

as technical experts to regional commissions and UN specialized agencies; and participated in interregional working groups with UN bodies. Ipas has produced several publications relevant to UN recommendations and disseminated them worldwide.

Founded in 1973, Ipas is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) which works globally to increase women's ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights and to reduce abortion-related deaths and injuries. Ipas believes that every woman has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, to safe reproductive choices, and high-quality health care.

Ipas is not a membership organization but has staff in five regions of the world. In January 2002, Ipas had 139 staff members in twelve country offices: Brazil, Bolivia, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, the United States of America, and Vietnam. In December 2005 there were 135 staff members, the office in Peru had closed and an office in Nepal had opened. Ipas also works through partners or consultants in Albania, Romania, and a number of countries in Africa.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings.

Ipas staff participated actively in the following UN meetings as NGO observers and advocates for women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, in line with the International Conference on Population and development Program of Action (ICPD PoA):

- **Ten-year Anniversary of the ICPD PoA:** Ipas was represented and advocated for the reaffirmation of the ICPD PoA at the European Population Forum, convened by the UN Economic Commission for Europe in partnership with UNFPA (Geneva, Switzerland, 12-14 January 2004); the Ad Hoc Committee for Population and Development for the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, Chile, March 2004); the Economic Commission for Africa Ministerial Conference on ICPD at 10 (Dakar, Senegal, June 2004); the sessional meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (San Juan, Puerto Rico, June 2004); and the UN General Assembly Day of Commemoration on ICPD (UN Headquarters, October 2004).
- Annual participation in the 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th sessions of the **Commission on Population and Development** in New York.
- **Commission on the Status of Women** in New York (48th Session, 1-12 March 2004, including submission of a statement on neglected issues regarding reproductive health care for women living with HIV/AIDS signed by 27 international and national NGO networks; 49th Session, 28 February-11 March 2005 including a written statement and organization of a press conference on the importance of reaffirming commitments from Beijing and ICPD; 50th Session, 27 February-10 March 2006, including a statement on the reproductive rights of women living with HIV, signed by NGOs around the world).

- United Nations General Assembly **Special Session on Children**, 4-10 May 2002, New York, where Ipas served as a member of a global NGO advocacy network focused on sexual and reproductive health needs of young people.
- 30th Session of the **CEDAW Committee**, reviewing the combined 4th and 5th periodic reports for Nigeria, 19-20 January, 2004, New York.
- Participation in the Ninth Session of the **Regional Conference on Women** in Latin America and the Caribbean, 10-12 June 2004, Mexico City.
- Observer at the 57th **World Health Assembly**, 17-21 May 2004, Geneva.
- Participation in **Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Reproductive Rights: Reducing Poverty and Achieving the MDGs**, 5-6 October 2004, a Technical Meeting organized by UNFPA, Stockholm, Sweden.

Oral statements made by Ipas

- Oral intervention by Ipas-Nigeria Country Director to CEDAW Committee on Nigeria's combined 4th and 5th periodic reports, 19-20 January 2004.
- Oral statements to the 35th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, April 2002 on unsafe abortion and ICPD; 37th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, March 24, 2004 on unsafe abortion as part of the ICPD PoA and achievement of MDGs; and 38th Session of the United Nations Commission on Population and Development, entitled "Reproductive health and HIV/AIDS: neglected issues of concern for women and girls".

Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies

Ipas worked closely with the **World Health Organization** at all levels, including the following:

- Drafting, finalizing, and disseminating the 2003 WHO publication, Safe Abortion: Technical and policy guidance for health systems.
- Participation as invited Observer at the annual meeting of the Policy and Coordination Committee of the UNDP/UNFPA/WHO/World Bank Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproductive, June 2005 and June 2006
- Consultancy on HIV/AIDS, pregnancy and abortion, including recommendations for changes in WHO policies and documents, and future areas for research (2004).
- Collaboration with WHO's Department of Reproductive Health and Research and the Regional Offices for Europe, South East Asia, and Western Pacific to organize regional meetings on the Strategic Approach for Improving Quality of Care in Abortion and Related Reproductive Health Services (Latvia, June 2004 and Bangkok, June 2005).
- Collaboration with PAHO-WHO in two regional meetings for Latin America on violence against women (August and September 2005).
- Collaboration with UNFPA includes completion of a consultancy (through EngenderHealth) to write sections of a policy framework on reproductive health services for women living with

HIV/AIDS and to co-moderate an e-forum on reproductive health for women living with HIV/AIDS.

Contributions to human rights treaty monitoring bodies

- Submitted comments to the CEDAW committee on General Recommendation 26 regarding Article 2 of the CEDAW convention, July 2004 and on its proposed draft of the General Recommendation 27 on Migrant Women, December 2005.
- Submitted a shadow letter to the Human Rights Committee regarding Brasil's adherence to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, May 2005.

Action in implementation of United Nation resolutions

Ipas's mission parallels the recommendations in paragraph 63iii of the Key Actions for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/S-21/5/Add.1), adopted by the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly, New York, 30 June – 2 July 1999. Ipas has also worked with a number of countries to help address abortion-related maternal mortality in support of achieving MDG #5. Specific activities include:

- Preparing an invited background paper for the Millennium Project (October 2004). (http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/documents/Crane_and_Hord-Smith-final.pdf) and comments on the Reproductive Health Task Force report (November 2004).
- Produced a simple practical tool with which NGOs can monitor benchmarks related to the Millennium Development Goals on maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS.
- Produced and disseminated a briefing paper on unsafe abortion and the MDGs (available: http://www.ipas.org/publications/en/MDGFLY_E05_en.pdf)

5. NETWORK OF EAST WEST WOMEN (NEWW)

Special Consultative Status granted in 2002

Part 1 (Introduction)

Network of East West Women (NEWW) is international communication and resource network supporting dialogue, informational exchange, and activism among those concerned about the status of women in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), the Central Independent States (CIS), former Soviet Union (FSU) and the Russian Federation (RF). NEWW coordinates research and advocacy supporting women's equality and full participation in all aspects of life. NEWW membership comes from all over the world but it definitely tries to focus on the region of CEE/CIS. Now NEWW has 313 individual members from 43 countries and 97 organizational members from 31 countries. NEWW connects women's advocates who work in partnership to promote women's rights and to strengthen women's role within civil society. NEWW members represent all strata of society - human rights activists, journalists, lawyers, parliamentarians, professors, and feminist activists. NEWW's overarching goal is to support the formation of independent women's movements and to strengthen the capacities of

women and women's non governmental organizations (NGOs) to influence policy regarding women's lives. NEWW supports and promotes projects and activism inspired by NEWW Statement of Principles: women's full and equal participation in the creation of a just and inclusive civil society; women's and men's right to be free of discrimination of any kind --structural or legal in employment in both the public and the private sector; women's (and men's) right to economic justice, including an adequate and accessible safety-net for vulnerable members of society; women's (and men's) right to be free of violence in the private and the public sphere, to be free of war, state violence and domination in all its forms; women's (and men's) right to be free of racial and ethnic hatred. In 2004 NEWW moved its headquarters from the United States of America to the region of CEE. It has been an important step towards strengthening the role of the regional voice in the organization. Now, the International Secretariat of NEWW is run by NEWW-Polska in Gdansk.

Part 2 (activities undertaken during the ongoing period)

From the beginning of 2002 NEWW in cooperation with UNIFEM and Karat Coalition ran two years project "Gender and Economic Justice in European Accession and Integration". The vision of the project was to use forthcoming integration with the European Union (EU) to strengthen women's economic rights and gender equality. The development objectives for the project included: promoting gender and economic justice for women in CEE and fostering a better understanding and cooperation between the EU and other countries of Europe, towards a vision for Europe where all citizens are equal, whether from the EU or CEE, regardless of their gender. Project objectives were: women from CEE benefited from the EU integration process, women from CEE supported their own governments and national negotiating teams in the preparations for EU integration; EU standards regarding gender equality promoted better respect for women's rights in CEE countries and gave them adequate protection. NEWW was responsible for the informational and communicational part of project including a website, production of information packages about the EU and women, publications (including a bi-weekly news update), research and electronic communication sessions in the workshops. The project was addressed to NGOs and individuals from CEE and CIS, from candidate and non-candidate countries. It used the process of European Union Accession to advance women's rights and gender equality.

During 2002 and 2003 project Women's Economic Justice Network: Strengthening Feminist Economic Expertise in Central and Eastern Europe / Newly Independent States CEE/NIS was ran in cooperation with UNIFEM. The project was a direct result of the 2001 Gender Policy Conference, organized by NEWW in July 2001 in Krakow. All participants at that conference agreed that the lack of economic information and information regarding the pace and processes of market reform and globalization kept women and women's NGOs from engaging in these issues. Women in CEE/CIS needed information and regional networks to educate themselves and one another, and to undertake collaborative advocacy initiatives. The project made available the following types of information: economic literacy (What, for example, was structural adjustment, and how were stabilization packages formulated?); economic transactions (How, for example, could women's NGOs monitor economic policies and transactions from a gender perspective?); points of policy intervention (How could women's NGOs shape and participate in economic decision-making processes at the local, national, regional and international levels.) The project collected, analyzed, translated and

disseminated documents and information through the website in 3 languages: Russian, English and Polish.

In 24 – 27 April 2003 in Gdansk, Poland NEWW in cooperation with UNIFEM held their second Gender Policy Conference, "Women and Economy". Over 60 women from 18 countries in CEE, CIS, RF, the United States of America and EU participated in the conference. This Conference focused on three areas of economic policymaking: European Structural Funds (ESF), Gender Budgeting (GB) and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The Conference ran in three concurrent training sessions. Mainstreaming Gender into the ESF - the main aim of this workshop was to gain greater expertise about ESF. The introduction of gender mainstreaming of ESF and advocacy initiatives on gender budget analysis in CEE/NIS made a critical contribution to addressing the widespread discrimination and inequalities in the use of public resources in the region. Gender Responsive Budgeting - the session introduced to the idea of gender budgeting (GB) and asked the following questions: What were the methods of GB, how can GB be introduced in the countries of CEE/NIS, what the good practices in the field of gender budgeting. Foreign Direct Investment - a gender analysis of foreign direct investment in CEE/NIS was another tool that women's NGOs could use to engage in economic and social policy decision making. The Conference session on FDI helped to create a roadmap of FDI in countries; create/examine "women friendly investment" standards and codes as well as identify the points of intervention for women's NGOs; and methods of attracting "good investments".

In 14th and 18th of April 2004 (Sopot, Poland) NEWW in cooperation with UNIFEM organized Gender Budgeting Initiative (GBI) in CEE/NIS region - planning meeting. It brought together women's NGOs from the region with a commitment to carry out gender budget projects to coordinate and support the development and implementation of these projects along with resulting advocacy initiatives. The meeting aimed to build network of cooperation within the CEE/NIS between women's NGOs in order to disseminate information about gender budgeting and develop the project of implementation GB in the region. This project based on information sharing, dissemination of research and partnership building and enabled NEWW-Polska and other organizations from the region to work on further advancing of the first gender budget analysis in CEE/NIS.

In 10-12 December 2003 (Geneva) our representative Malgorzata Tarasiewicz participated in The World Summit on the Information Society which was held in Geneva, Switzerland. She was a member of the editorial team of "Digital Futures" magazine on women and Information and Communication Technologies.

In 9 – 11 December 2004 (Geneva) NEWW Executive Director Malgorzata Tarasiewicz participated in Beijing+10 Geneva PrepCom meeting which was held in Geneva, Switzerland. She participated in the regional CEE/CIS Caucus working to formulate concerns of women from CEE/CIS and evaluate the way Beijing Platform for Action (BFA) was implemented in the countries in CEE/CIS region.

In 28 February-11 March 2005 (New York) NEWW was represented by Malgorzata Tarasiewicz on Beijing +10 Conference: Forty-Ninth Session of the Commission of the Status of Women, New York, United Nations Headquarters. NEWW coordinated the work of Polish women NGOs on a shadow report on the implementation of BFA Report concentrated on economic justice issues including the

issue of women's empowerment through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and gender budget. The reports were published in Polish and English, also on NEWW website.

In 12th-15th June 2005 (Brussels) NEWW representatives Malgorzata Tarasiewicz and Zofia Lapniewska were invited by United Nations Development Fund for Women to Brussels to join other Gender Equality advocates in CEE and the Commonwealth of Independent States in raising concern over the apparent gap between the European Union's commitment to advance gender equality and its translation into policy, action, and allocation of resources as reflected in EU assistance to countries of the region. NEWW was invited to learn more about the new financial instruments, which were guide EU support to the CEE/CIS between 2007 and 2013. The visit provided an opportunity to meet with Brussels-based NGOs, as well as with the European Parliament and European Commission officials, to share and discuss specific concerns related to the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance, the European Neighborhood and Partnership Instrument and the Stability Instrument.

In 8-9 December 2005 (Geneva) NEWW was invited to Geneva by UN Special Programme for Central Asia (SPECA) to share the experiences of Gender Budgeting on local level as well as the idea of the Women's Economy Institute that was going to start in spring in CEE/CIS countries and could be duplicated in Asia. The main purpose of the two days meeting that took place in Geneva was to stimulate a discussion on the mandate and work programme. It looked at gender "links" to core areas of SPECA activities in the context of current situation and policy challenges creating pro-poor growth strategy, addressing problems of rural population, mobilizing human capital, and argued that that taking a gender perspective in addressing these challenges made good economic sense.